



## Parent-child Reading Contributing to Chinese Preschool Children's Phonological Processing

Zheng Xiu Lin<sup>1</sup>, Fong Yui Chi<sup>2</sup>, Cathy<sup>3</sup>

The Education University of Hong Kong

### Abstract

Shared book reading (SBR) between parents and children is a popular activity to improve children's language abilities, particularly phonological processing skills such as phonological awareness (PA), working memory (WM), and rapid automatized naming (RAN). Although previous research has shown the importance of phonological processing skills for early literacy development, most studies have focused on English contexts and general verbal abilities. This study aimed to address the gaps by examining the relation between SBR and a range of phonological processing skills (i.e., PA, WM, and RAN) during the early years of literacy development in Chinese. Participants were 151 preschool children and their parents from 4 kindergartens in 4 cities in mainland China. Parents reported their involvement in SBR in an online questionnaire. Children's language tests were conducted by the preschool teachers at their own schools. Results of the partial correlation analysis found that SBR had significant relationships with SBR and all three phonological processing skills (i.e., PA, WM, and RAN). Moreover, the results of the hierarchical analysis showed that SBR had a unique contribution to PA, but not to WM and RAN. Results of the moderation analysis indicated that the associations between SBR and phonological processing skills were significantly stronger in older children, especially evident in K3 children. These findings suggest that parents should enhance specific strategies for PA during preschool, use SBR strategies for older children if the children are too young to benefit from SBR and attach importance to SBR for K3 children to promote their phonological processing skills.

**Keywords:** preschool children, parent-child shared book reading, phonological awareness, rapid automatized naming, working memory